



COAST GUARD
MARINE SAFETY OFFICE
JACKSONVILLE



7820 Arlington Expressway Suite 400
Jacksonville, FL 32211-7445
Phone: (904) 232-2640
Fax: (904) 232-1014

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 08-04

01 JUNE 2004

**HEAVY WEATHER ADVISORY NOTICE
FOR THE PORT(S) OF JACKSONVILLE, FERNANDINA,
AND PORT CANAVERAL**

Effective June 1, Hurricane Condition 4 is set in the ports of Jacksonville, Fernandina and Canaveral. Although it has been more than 30 years since a hurricane has had a major impact on the Port of Jacksonville and the surrounding areas, we must remain alert and prepared for the worst-case scenario. Hurricanes are nature's most destructive storms and provide some of the most devastating effects in terms of lost of life and damage/destruction to property. This year, NOAA forecasters are predicting an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. The season outlook is for 12 to 15 tropical storms, with six to eight systems becoming hurricanes, and two to four of those major hurricanes. See the following website for more information (www.noaa.gov). The time to prepare is now.

Marine interests should be aware that there are no "safe havens" identified within the ports of Jacksonville, Fernandina, and Canaveral for a vessel to safely survive hurricane force winds, or storm surges without creating a threat to the safety of the port and public welfare. The safest condition for the port during the arrival of a hurricane is when the inventory of vessels is at a minimum. COTP policy directs vessel owners/operators and agents to make every attempt to put vessels greater than 200 tons to sea in the event a hurricane or tropical storm threatens the ports of Jacksonville, Fernandina, or Canaveral.

In the event that a commercial oceangoing vessel or oceangoing barge over 200 gross does not intend to put to sea, the person in charge of the vessel must submit a **Remaining in Port Checklist** to the COTP. **No vessels will be allowed to remain at facilities which are within one half mile of a bridge.** Vessels allowed to remain in the port must have the decks clear of any missile hazards, potential pollution hazards, and flammable materials. All persons in charge must ensure hatches are secured for heavy weather.

The Harbor Safety Committee for the Ports of Jacksonville and Fernandina will meet on 09 JUN 04 and Canaveral port operators will meet on 08JUN 04 to discuss heavy weather and related issues. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please contact LT Tedtaotao at 232-2640,ext. 153.

David L. Lersch
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port